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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE:

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SUBJECT Current Activity of Slovene Politicians in-Exile;
The Formation of the Slovenian Democratic Party

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The attached report is a consolidation of material

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A. A Short History of Slovene Political Parties

1. The Slovenian Liberal Party was created some fifty years ago in the days of the Austro-Hungarian State when Slovenian nationalist tendencies were beginning to crystalize. It may be considered as the counterbalance to the Slovenian Clerical Party. The Liberal Party under its first leaders, Dr. Ivan Tavcar and Dr. Karl Triller developed rapidly among the urban intelligentsia. After their death, leadership was assumed by another great leader, Dr. Gregor Zerjav, who undertook to organize the Party among the peasantry, especially in the Novo Mestre Area.
2. In Yugoslavia, after World War I, the Slovenian Liberal Party united with the Serbian Democratic Party under the leadership of Ljuba Davidovich and the Croat Democratic Party under Svetozar Pribicevich; in a split which took place shortly afterwards the Slovenian Liberals joined Svetozar Pribicevich in his "Independent Democratic Party".
3. When Dr. Zerjav died, the Slovenian Liberals lost their strongest personality, and his successors Dr. Ivan Kramer and Ivan Pucelj not only failed to maintain party strength, but also destroyed party unity by permitting the formation of two factions: the first, known as the Peasant Liberals (led by Ivan Pucelj and Dr. Drago Marusich); the second, (led by Dr. Ivan Kramer and Dr. Dinco Pucelj), was known as the Citizens' faction.
4. As a logical result of this situation, the Church-supported Clerical Party under its great leader Dr. Anton Korosec decisively gained the upper hand, and the whole country, with the sole exception of the city of Ljubljana, became overwhelmingly Clerical.
5. In 1929, at the time of the inception of the dictatorship under King Alexander, the Slovenian Liberals entered the Yugoslav National Party under General Petar Zivkovich, the only authorized political party. The Clericals, on the other hand, except for a few short periods, remained in the opposition. As a result of the Clerical Party's "outlaw" status, the Liberals regained a certain amount of lost ground during this period.
6. When Dr. Milan Stojadinovich came to power following the death of King Alexander, however, he created the JRX (the Yugoslav Radical Union) through fusion of the Slovenian Clericals with the Moslems of Bosnia. When Serbia fell under the dictatorship of Stojadinovich, the Clericals assumed full power in Slovenia and started a relentless crusade against the Liberals and their institutions. Under this practical Clerical dictatorship, which lasted until the outbreak of World War II, the Liberal Party was almost entirely destroyed.
7. Some followers of the old Liberal Party, dissatisfied with the weakness of their leaders, began to leave its ranks and maintained themselves aloof from politics; others began to join the ranks of the Communists for the sole purpose of having a means to fight the Clericals. It may thus be said that the seven-year dictatorship of the Clerical Party is largely responsible for the amazingly rapid development of communism under [redacted] occupation of Slovenia. As a result of the weakness of Liberal leadership not only did the youth gradually go over to the Communists in order to combat the Clericals, but in some cases even certain Liberal leaders went into the Communist Party, or, at least, collaborated with it for the same purpose. 50X1-HUM
8. After a short period of enemy occupation Clerical Party relationships vis-a-vis the Communists clearly emerged, but the Liberals remained bewildered and lost almost the entirety of their following.
9. Liberal Party chief Dr. Kramer, ill and incapable of acting with decision and efficiency, died in 1943. 50X1-HUM
10. Ivan Pucelj, devoid of all orientation, wavered between the Clerical and Communist Camps without ever achieving a clear line of action. In 1945 he was arrested [redacted] and sent to Dachau where he died. 50X1-HUM

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11. Engineer Janko Mackovsek, acting in the name of Dr. Kramer, collaborated with the Clericals. In 1944 [] sent him, too, to Dachau where he died. 50X1-HUM
12. Dr. Dinko Puc who sympathized with the Communists also died at Dachau.
13. Dr. Drago Marusich first collaborated with General Mihailovich, but later went over to the Communists. Dr. Jozse Rus and Franc Lubej also went over to the Communists and played an important part in their ranks.
14. For a period, a certain group of the younger Liberals wavered between the Clericals and the Chetniks with, apparently, more sympathy for General Mihailovich. Among them were Andrej Ursich who is now living in exile, and Dr. Branko Alujevich, Dr. Janko Kestl, Eng. Ferling, and Dr. Vroon, all of whom are now imprisoned by the Communists.
15. The World War II phase, then, must be considered the Party's "black period", and the results of the previous attitude carry over into the present exile phase in which the Liberals are still incapable of achieving unity because of small predominantly personal difference.

B. Foundation of the Slovenian Democratic Party

16. On 14, 15 and 16 September 1946, a meeting of progressive Slovenian politicians was held at Riscione for the purpose of discussing the present political situation and of promoting a progressive Slovenian party to unite such pre-war anti-clerical groups as the Yugoslav National Party, the Yugoslav Democratic Party, and the National Radical Party, as well as progressives without previous party affiliations.
17. After the three-day session it was unanimously agreed to promote a single progressive Slovenian party embodying all the fundamental principles of Western Democracy, and the following decisions were reached:
 - a. The new party will be known as the "Slovenian Democratic Party";
 - b. It will champion a united Yugoslavia composed of clearly defined Slovenian, Serbian and Croatian political units whose political and administrative prerogatives vis-a-vis the central government are to be decided by popular vote. The institutional question of republic versus monarchy is to be the subject of referendum;
 - c. Its chief function at the present time is as a political body which will serve to unify progressive elements in emigration in order that they may resume their political activities on the basis of fundamental democratic principles upon their return to the homeland.

C. Composition of the Slovenian Democratic Party

18. It may be said that the Slovene Liberals in exile represent hardly anyone in the homeland. During the recent war their followers joined the Communists and, although they are now suffering disillusionment, at that time they represented the bulk of Partisan fighting forces. Although this group is of the greatest importance in any consideration of the future, the leaders in exile, because they cannot count upon its support, are working in agreement with the Clericals.
19. In this sense, then, Liberal leaders in exile are acting against their former followers, and it is therefore impossible to regard the new Liberal combination, despite its fundamentally sound motives, as of great political importance. There is the further consideration that most of the personalities connected with the new Slovenian Democratic Party are considerably compromised by their war-time collaboration with the enemy.

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20. The Slovenian Democratic Party is composed of the following members:

- a. Edo Antosievich - A well-known figure in the sports world, Antosievich participated in the Olympic Games on several occasions as Yugoslavia's representative. 50X1-HUM

Antosievich

obtained a post as a secretary with UNRRA in Munich but lost his position some time ago.

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- b. Dr. Stojan Bajloh - A university professor and scientist.

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- c. Engineer Ladislav Bevo The spiritual leader of the Slovenian "Sokol" organization.

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Member of the Yugoslav National Party.

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Bevo

became a member of the Slovenian Government,

and is a member of the Slovenian National Council

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- d. Dr. Vladimir Borstnik a lawyer by profession.

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- e. Dr. Bogdan Drnovsek A lawyer,

he is an editor

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- f. Dr. Franc Kolterer a physician

- g. Engineer Milan Lenarcich - A very well-known industrialist from Vrhnika near Ljubljana,

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- h. Dr. Boris Mihalich [redacted] Dr. Mihalich was
an attorney and judge in Maribor before the war.

- i. Dr. Gustav Omahen - Formerly a physician and dentist in Metlika
(Slovenia); [redacted]

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- j. Dr. Janko Orozen - Formerly a bank director in pre-war Maribor,
[redacted] a lawyer

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- k. Tugomer Prekorsek [redacted] is the son of Ivan
Prekorsek, a former liberal member of the Yugoslav Parliament.

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- l. Dr. Bojan Ribnikar [redacted] his father, Adolf, was one of the original founders of the old Liberal newspaper Jutro and started the newspaper Vercernik [redacted]

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- m. Engineer Boris Sancin [redacted]

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- n. Dr. August Sfiligoj [redacted]

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an attorney [redacted]

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- o. Rado Slano [redacted]

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- p. Miroslav Urbas [redacted]

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- q. Andrej Ursich [redacted]

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- r. Dr. Milos Vauhnik - [redacted] a lawyer [redacted]

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s. Zivko Vedlin [redacted]

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t. Joze Verovsek [redacted]

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u. Dr. Bogomil Vosnjak
politician who was

A Slovenian Liberal

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[redacted]
[redacted] for a number of years was Yugoslav
Ambassador at Prague.

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v. Ivo Vrancich [redacted]

Lawyer. [redacted]

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w. Dr. Marjan Zajec - [redacted]

former Secretary-

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General of the Yugoslav National Party.
[redacted]

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x. Rudolf Zitnik

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D. Important Slovenes in-Exile Outside the Newly Formed Party

21. Among the more important Slovenian exiles who have remained outside the newly formed Slovenian Democratic Party are the following:

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a. Dr. Milko Brezigar - A lawyer

b. Dr. Vekoslav Bucar

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a journalist by profession;

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c. Dr. Ivan Maria Cok

a lawyer.

d. Dr. Kristof (or Krsto) Kazafura - A lawyer,

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e. Dr. Franc Macus - Macus, an engineer by profession,

f. Dr. Pavle Pestotnik

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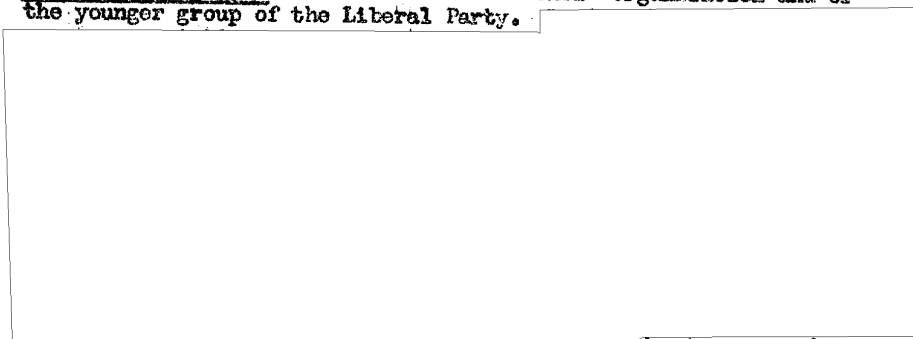
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- g. Dr. Bogdan Pusenjak - A member of the "Sokol" organization and of the younger group of the Liberal Party.



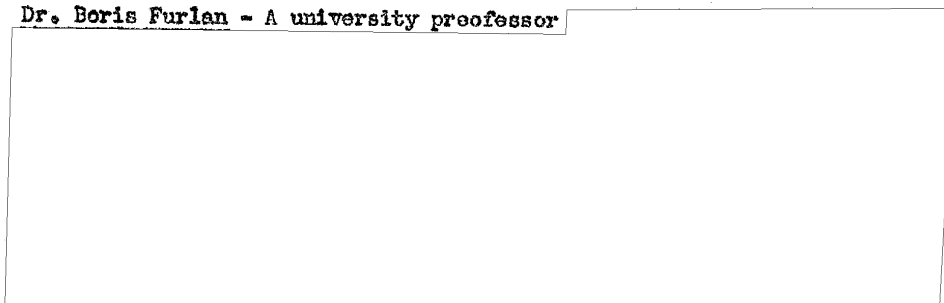
he is currently employed by UNRRA.

E. Other Liberal Personalities

22. Though not active in exile politics, the following figures should be considered in an evaluation of the Slovenian Liberal background:

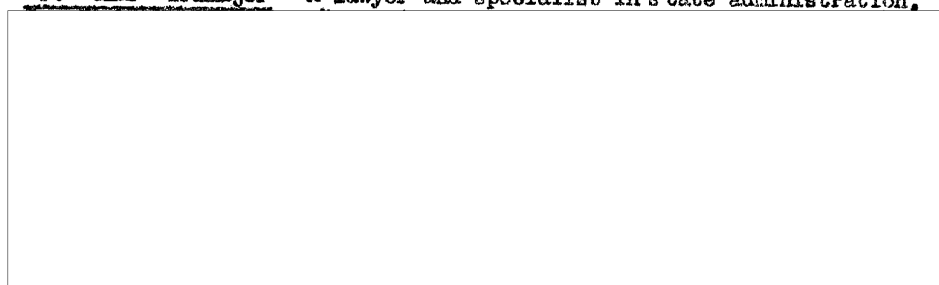
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- a. Dr. Boris Furlan - A university professor



- b. Dr. Otmar Pirkmajer - A lawyer and specialist in state administration.

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- c. Dr. Vladimir Suklje

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He is now living in Ljubljana and working as a lawyer.

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